

The Ehlers e-Newsletter

Monday, March 3, 2003

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Later this week, you should expect to receive an invitation to join a LISTSERV list from Congressman Ehlers' office, which will be the only way you will be able to receive these newsletters in the future. If you want to be part of this new program, simply follow the instructions that are provided in the invitation you will receive. Thank you.)

HOUSE APPROVES CLONING BAN – The U.S. House of Representatives Thursday approved the Human Cloning Prohibition Act of 2003 (H.R. 534) on a bipartisan 241-155 vote. Congressman Ehlers joined 197 other Republicans, 42 Democrats and one independent in supporting the bill.

The legislation H.R. 534 bans human cloning by prohibiting the use of somatic cell nuclear transfer techniques to create human embryos. This act bans both "therapeutic" (research) and reproductive cloning. Specifically, this legislation states that it shall be unlawful for any person or entity, public or private, in or affecting interstate commerce, knowingly, to perform or attempt to perform human cloning, to participate in an attempt to perform human cloning, or to ship or receive for any purpose an embryo produced by human cloning or any product derived from such embryo. The bill also makes it unlawful for any person or entity, public or private, knowingly to import for any purpose an embryo produced by human cloning, or any product derived from such embryo. The bill does not restrict the use of cloning technology to produce molecules, DNA, cells other than human embryos, tissues, organs, plants, or animals other than humans.

TEMPORARY REDESIGN OF NICKEL APPROVED BY HOUSE – Congressman Ehlers last week joined his colleagues in approving a redesign of the 5-cent piece to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark Expedition, also known as the Corps of Discovery. If the legislation is approved by the Senate and signed into law by President Bush, it would allow for a four-year redesign of the nickel. The purpose of the Corps of Discovery, which began Oct. 20, 1803, and concluded Sept. 23, 1806, was to explore the newly acquired Louisiana Territory, which the United States, under the direction of President Thomas Jefferson, purchased from France for the unheard-of sum of \$15 million in 1803. Since it is Jefferson's profile that appears on the 5-cent piece, it was the logical coin to use for the commemoration. The House approved the bill on a 412-5 vote.

THIS WEEK IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 3 – 7, 2003

(All schedules are subject to change and amendment)

Monday, March 3, 2003

On Monday, the House will meet at 12:00 p.m. in a Pro Forma Session. There will be no votes.

Tuesday, March 4, 2003

On Tuesday, the House will meet at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour and 2:00 p.m. for legislative business. Votes are postponed until 6:30 p.m.

Suspensions (3 bills):

1) **H.Res.106** - Congratulating Lutheran schools, students, parents, teachers, administrators, and congregations across the Nation for their ongoing contributions to education, and for other purposes.

(Sponsored by Rep. Bereuter / Education and the Workforce Committee)

2) **H.Con.Res. 54** - Honoring Visiting Nurses Association – Expressing the sense of the Congress that there should be established an annual National Visiting Nurse Association Week.

(Sponsored by Rep. Markey / Government Reform Committee)

3) **H.Res. 111** - Honoring the legacy of Fred Rogers and his dedication to creating a more compassionate, kind, and loving world for children and adults.

(Sponsored by Rep. Doyle / Government Reform Committee)

Wednesday and Thursday, March 5 and 6, 2003

H.R. XXX (not yet numbered) - Miscellaneous Trade and Technical Corrections Act of 2003 – Information not available at time of publication.

(Ways and Means Committee)

H.R 743 - Social Security Protection Act of 2003 – To amend the Social Security Act and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide additional safeguards for Social Security and Supplemental Security Income beneficiaries with representative payees, to enhance program protections, and for other purposes.

(Sponsored by Rep. Shaw / Ways and Means Committee)

H.J.Res. XXX - Commending the members of the United States Armed Forces

(Sponsored by Rep. Hunter / Armed Services Committee)

H.R. 13 - Museum and Library Services Act of 2003 – Amends the Museum and Library Services Act (MLSA) and the Library Services and Technology Act to extend authorizations of appropriations and revise programs under such acts.

(Sponsored by Rep. Hoekstra / Education and the Workforce Committee)

H.R.878 - Armed Forces Tax Fairness Act of 2003 – To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a special rule for members of the uniformed services and Foreign Service in determining the exclusion of gain from the sale of a principal residence and to restore the tax exempt status of death gratuity payments to members of

the uniformed services, and for other purposes.
(Sponsored by Rep. Thomas / Ways and Means Committee)

Friday, March 7, 2003

On Friday, there will be no votes in the House.

Historical Tidbits

On March 3 ...

1845 – The U.S. Congress passed legislation overriding a U.S. President's veto. It was the first time the Congress had achieved this.

1863 – Free city delivery of mail was authorized by the U.S. Postal Service.

1931 – “The Star Spangled Banner” by Francis Scott Key becomes the official national anthem of the United States.